Allotment of telephone connections in Uttaranchal

1939. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections that have been allotted during the year 2002-03 in the villages of district Pauri Garhwal, Uttaranchal particularly in Patti Edwalsyun, Pauri Garhwal and how many registrants are there in waiting list and how many persons have applied for fresh telephone connections;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of persons from Village-Bara, Post-Pesoli, Patti-Edwalsyun, district Pauri Garhwal have applied for the connections last year but are not getting telephone connections; and

(c) the reasons for non-installation of connections and by when, registrants would get connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A total of 1312 telephone connection, including 512 nos. of Village Public Telephone (VPTs), were provided by BSNL during 2002-03 in the villages of district Pauri Garhwal, Uttaranchal and particularly 29 Nos. in Patti Edwalsyun, Pauri Garhwal. There are 7 applicants in the waiting list in Patti Edwalsyun, Pauri Garhwal as on 30.6.2003.

(b) and (c) During 2002-03, only seven applicants had applied for the new telephone connections from far flung areas of village Patti-Edwalsyun out of which five were from villages Bara. The connection to these subscribers could not be provided due to non-feasible areas. These subscribers have been asked to take connections on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and they will be given connections as soon acceptance is received from them.

Expenditure on I.T. Industry

†1940. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure on the Information Technology Industry in India was 1.008 billion dollar in the year 2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that E-governance started in India five years back; and

(d) if so, the names of the States where the compliance of the E-governance policy has begun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to NASSCOM estimates, India currently spends about 1.1 per cent of its GDP on Information Technology. This works out to about Rs. 22, 757 crore in the year 2001-02, or about US $ 4.8 billion.

(c) Government set up the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1975-76 to provide computerization support to the Central Government Departments. The role of the NIC was extended in 1985 to the State Governments, including District Headquarters.

The NIC has established a nationwide Information and Communications Technologies Network (NICNET) - with gateway nodes in all Central Government Departments, State/UT Secretariats and about 600 Districts.

The NIC has developed many E-Governance applications in the area of Judiciary, Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Records, Transport, Passport Services, Sales Tax, Customs and Excise, Property Registration, Civil Pension/Social Welfare Pension, Public Grievances, Accounts etc. and these applications are already operational.

(d) The adoption of E-Governance is an ongoing process in all the States. According to, 'The India: E-Readiness Assessment Report 2003', the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have emerged as leading States in the country based on the index of E-governance.

Landline and Mobile Telephone charges

1941. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the charges for landline and Mobile telephones in Delhi and Haryana have been revised;